

FLEXIBLE IV SITE PROTECTOR AND METHOD OF USING SAME

RELATED APPLICATIONS

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5 **[001]** This is a continuation-in-part patent application of U.S. patent application Serial No.: 10/360,253, entitled " Venipuncture Site Protector and Method of Using Same", filed on February 6, 2003, ~~_____~~ ^{now U.S. Pat. No. 6,821,707.}

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10 **[002]** The present invention relates to a device for protecting an intravenous site of a patient from water and other contaminants during intravenous infusion and more particularly to a device for securing and protecting and intravenous catheter from unwanted and undesired movement thereby significantly decreasing complications and reducing unscheduled catheter restarts.

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BACKGROUND

20 **[003]** An Intravenous catheter can be dangerous if not properly secured - dangerous to both the patient and the healthcare worker. Taping the intravenous catheter to the skin of the patient is not an acceptable solution, as tape is not designed to secure a catheter. Moreover, tape allows micro-movement of a catheter which in turn can result in complications, including phlebitis, infiltration, extravasations, dislodgement, disconnection, and even infection. Such complications necessitate unscheduled catheter restarts - which expose healthcare workers to dangerous blood-filled stylets and
25 needles.

30 **[004]** Therefore it would be highly desirable to have a new and improved device and method for securing and protecting and intravenous catheter from unwanted and undesired movement thereby significantly decreasing complications and reducing unscheduled catheter restarts.